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SPECIAL TO MARION COURTNEY OF THE N.Y. TIMES

STATEMENT ON WHY PEOPLE WILL COME TO NEWARK  
TO ATTEND PROGRAMS AT THE N.J. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

"Atlanta, Georgia has a higher crime rate, more poverty and a larger African American population than Newark. Yet, that southern city has a major league baseball team and will host the Superbowl and the Olympics. Despite its problems Atlanta has something to offer, which proves if you build the best mousetrap, people will buy it.

"And while Baltimore is like Newark, it still attracts people who come to see the Inner Harbor and to watch the Orioles play in Camden Yards.

Cities need to offer something to attract people and the N.J. Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) will bring people to Newark. It won't be long before arts lovers from New Jersey, New York and the entire region will be flocking to cultural events at the NJ PAC.

"Countless surveys have shown that arts centers turn cities into destinations where people from an entire region come to dine and shop while they're in town for a ballet and symphony. Current Symphony and opera performances in Newark attract sell out crowds.

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"Great effort has gone into the planning of the arts center to make it a state of the art facility. I have no doubt that the NJPAC will attract persons from far and wide, who will help make Newark one of the Northeast's most important cities well into the 21st century.